

California is the only State in the Union that has a complete registration of its rejected and discharged tuberculous soldiers. No small amount of this success is due to the supervisors in nearly all of the counties in the State, and to the excellent initiative and organizing ability of the Bureau of Tuberculosis of the State Board of Health.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Members of the Medical Society of the State of California who have received literature from the Red Chevron Organization, requesting them to donate their services to the cause, are hereby warned that the Red Chevron was investigated at the last meeting of the Council, and the Council does not give its approval to this organization. A full discussion of the matter will occur in our next issue.

It is worth remembering that every punctured wound of the foot, especially that most frequent variety due to stepping on rusty nails, is a potential cause of tetanus. Every such wound should be treated by immediate free incision, permitting hemorrhage, then swabbed with phenol, followed by alcohol. A compress dressing should be applied which will allow access of oxygen, keep the wound open for a time and protect against further contamination. The adjacent skin should be iodined. 1500 units of tetanus antitoxin should be administered hypodermically at once. Remember that tetanus bacilli are anaerobic, spore-bearing, and most apt to occur in material contaminated with horse manure, hence especially in street dust, and that the toxin travels along the peri-neural lymph channels from wound to central nervous system.

COMFORT STATIONS.

Public accommodation is being met by some large cities in different ways. In the East, a number of the cities have constructed stations at expenditures varying from \$6,000 to \$18,000. The more expensive stations include news and boot-black stands, with a view of making them self-supporting. Other cities have used an idea suggested by the International Public Comfort Station Association: That of various merchants in the city displaying a neat little sign, designated by the city, which shows or indicates that within there is a comfort station for the accommodation of either men or women, or both. This system, so far, seems to have met with success. It saves the city a heavy expenditure for new buildings, and also benefits the merchant by material increase in business. It has been suggested that stations be located at the junction points of some of our automobile roads where traffic is very heavy, and that a sufficient amount of ground be reserved for future growth.—Bulletin, Los Angeles Health Department.

Original Articles

THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS WORK OF THE STATE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT COMMISSION.*

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The earliest reference to "Safety First" I have been able to find is in Chapter 22, verse 8, of Deuteronomy, the fifth book of Moses, where these words appear: "When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence."

The foundation of English common law is taken from the five books of Moses, from Genesis to Deuteronomy, and we can there read much that represents the highest ideals of present-day civilization. If they had used emery-wheels in those days, I think we would be able to read a verse following the one quoted about like this: "When thou grindest tools on the emery-wheel; then thou shalt use a hood over the wheel and goggles over thine eyes, that thou bring not blindness upon thine house because of dust entering the windows of thy soul."

The National Safety Council estimates there is one worker killed every fifteen minutes, day and night, in the United States, and one injured every sixteen seconds, day and night. This gives us more than 30,000 killed and about 2,000,000 injured. It is estimated that out of this number there are 200,000 eye injuries. The National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness states there are 100,000 blind persons in the United States and that more than 50 per cent. are needlessly blind.

There are, in round figures, 1,000,000 employees in the State of California. There are 300 industrial injuries each working day, excluding Sundays, in the State. We thus have approximately 100,000 industrial injuries each year in California. In 1914, 1915 and 1916 there were 23,451 eye injuries. Of this number 549 were permanent injuries and 22,902 temporary injuries. There were 11 cases of total blindness. The medical and compensation costs for these eye injuries will be about \$788,000. It is impossible to give a definite amount at this time, because the 11 cases of total blindness call for life pensions, and we have simply computed the amounts that would be paid the injured men, based on the mortality tables used by the insurance companies. The time lost by the 22,902 temporary injuries was 234.3 years. This means that we found just what each man lost; one man might lose a day from work, another man a week, and another man six months, and so on. We added the total together and got the 234.3 years. We have in California 26 eye injuries each working day and the number will grow larger as there is an increase in the total of employees, especially when we consider the large groups of men that are employed in the shipbuilding plants who are more

* Synopsis of address delivered on May 28, 1918, before the Section on Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat of the San Francisco County Medical Society.